

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOVIET SUPPORT FOR KHMER INSURGENTS

SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARIES OF MARCH 4-5 ON THE CAMBODIAN
SITUATION HIGHLIGHT:

--THE RECENT MILITARY SUCCESSES OF THE KHMER ROUGE
FORCES;

--THE ALLEGED MILITARY AND ECONOMIC WEAKNESS OF THE
PHNOM PENH REGIME;

--MOSCOW'S SUPPORT FOR THE "JUST CAUSE OF THE LIBERATOR."

CRITICISM OF THE US IS LIMITED, AND NEITHER SIHANOUK NOR ANY
OTHER INSURGENT LEADER IS MENTIONED.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: MOSCOW'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECENT INTENSI-

FICATION OF THE FIGHTING BY THE INSURGENTS, FOLLOWING ITS
EARLIER LOW-KEY COVERAGE, PROBABLY SIGNALS ITS BELIEF THAT
THE SITUATION NOW DECISIVELY FAVORS THE INSURGENTS, AND THAT
THE US WILL PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO PREVENT THEIR VICTORY.

NONETHELESS, THE VERY CAUTIOUS SOVIET TREATMENT OF THE US
PROBABLY MEANS THEY DO NOT WANT TO PROVOKE A DISPUTE WITH
WASHINGTON. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 3039, 3/9. INGERSOLL

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